



REGIONAL CRAFT CENTRE LINCOLN



Lincolnshire & Humberside Arts



REGIONAL CRAFT CENTRE

Jews Court Steep Hill

Lincoln

Telephone (0522) 33247

In a city rich in historical interest, Jews Court, standing at the base of the steep climb up to the cathedral and castle is high on the list of any visitor's guide to the city. The building, together with the adjoining Jews House, was built in the Norman period, probably about 1180, and in mediaeval times it was the Jewish synagogue in Lincoln and a centre for the powerful Jewish community in the city until their expulsion in 1290; (Steep Hill was in all probability then called the Juiverie or Jewry).

In 1928 the building was acquired by the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society and on its amalgamation with the Lincolnshire Local History Society in 1966, ownership of Jews Court passed to the Jews Court Trust. Early in 1974 the tenancy was offered to Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts by the Trustees, to use the building as a craft centre thereby opening it up to the public and providing a much-needed focal point for craftsmen from all over the region — something which the Association had long wanted to do.

Jews Court now houses two craft galleries at first

floor level; the large airy room which was once the synagogue is devoted to pottery, weaving, wrought iron, furniture, patchwork and other traditional rural crafts; and the other smaller green gallery, in total contrast, holds silver, jewellery, prints, glass, books and small sculpture. Special exhibitions will be held in this room from time to time to show what is happening in other parts of the country. Work is taken on a two-monthly basis and so the displays are constantly changing. Nearly everything is for sale; the objects which cannot be sold are examples of a particularly high standard of workmanship which are relevant to the craft situation in the region.

Downstairs there is a book area with a good selection of poetry magazines from small presses, together with Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts' own publications, and folk records which are difficult to obtain commercially. There is also a coffee/meeting room with plenty of comfortable seating, good fresh coffee on a serve-yourself basis and lots of nice things to look at. A small walled garden at the rear has been turned into a pleasant patio area with bench seating for warm summer days.

The Association's Fellow in Weaving, Jeanette Killner, has her workshop in a building in the garden and is pleased to talk to visitors about her craft every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00 and 5.00.

A comprehensive advisory service on local crafts is available at the centre — there is a card index of every craftsman and workshop in the region which will soon be augmented by a slide index plus projection equipment. Schools, Women's Institutes, adult education centres and other organisations and clubs are particularly welcome — please contact the Centre Secretary, Sibyl Burgess, to bring small parties round.

So the emphasis is on people, both craftsmen and their public, and we hope we have created a centre which is both sympathetic to the display of craft objects and a warm and friendly environment for people to buy or just browse round at their leisure.

The Centre is open from Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 to 5.30 and Saturday 10.00 to 6.00. During the summer tourist season the Centre will also be open on Sunday afternoons from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.

Robert Platherwick Old Bakery Reephem Street



A map of Lincoln showing the position of the Regional Craft Centre on Steep Hill and Lincolnshire & Humberside's office on Beaumont Fee Lincoln.